

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 R

DRAFTED BY H:ASWIFT/EZM
APPROVED BY H:LPEZZULLO
EA/IMS - MR. KENNEY

-----220602Z 059268 /17

P R 220259Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF: TIMOR TRIP

1. REPRESENTATIVE HELEN MEYNER HELD PRESS CONFERENCE
APRIL 21 TO DISCUSS EAST ASIAN TRIP AND TIMOR. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MOST OF PRESS INCLUDING AP, UPI, AND AUSTRALIAN PRESS ATTENDED.

2. MRS. MEYNER'S COMMENTS WERE CLOSE TO THOSE MADE DURING HER PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEPARTURE FROM JAKARTA: SHE STATED THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN ATROCITIES ON BOTH SIDES THAT MOST OF FIGHTING WAS NOW OVER, THAT TIMORESE SHE SAW WANTED TO BE PART OF INDONESIA AND THAT EFFORT NEEDED TO BE MADE TO HELP THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TIMOR. SHE REFUSED TO TERM INDONESIAN -ENTRY INTO TIMOR AN "INVASION" AND SAID SHE WOULD SUPPORT CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA. THE TIMOR QUESTION, SHE SAID, SHOULD NOT IMPAIR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA.

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3. JOHN SALZBERG OF FRASER'S STAFF WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, TOLD PRESS THAT: THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAD "PROHIBITED" THE GROUP FROM BRINGING IN A TIMORESE INTERPRETER; HAD "PROHIBITED" THE GROUP FROM

MEETING WITH PEOPLE IT WANTED TO SEE; AND HAD, AGAINST

GROUPS STATED WISHES, SCHEDULED TRIP SO TIGHTLY WITH SO MANY STOPS THAT IT HAD NO FREE TIME. SALZBERG ADDED THAT GOI HAD MADE NO EFFORT AT ALL TO HELP GROUP MEET ANY OF INDIVIDUALS ON THE LIST GROUP HAD PRESENTED. SALZBERG SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE TRIP HAD SHED MUCH LIGHT ON THE ATROCITY QUESTION ALTHOUGH THAT HAD BEEN ONE OF THE TRIP'S PURPOSES (MRS. MEYNER AGREED WITH THIS STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH BOTH SHE AND HOLSTINE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE PEOPLE WITH WHOM GROUP MET DID APPEAR SINCERELY TO DESIRE PEACE, UNION WITH INDONESIA AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT). SALZBERG STATED HE FELT INDONESIA HAD "INVADED" TIMOR AND ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE UN WOULD BE ALLOWED IN TO EAST TIMOR ALTHOUGH UN REQUESTS HAD TO DATE BEEN REJECTED BY THE GOI.

4. SALZBERG COMMENTS WERE MADE IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO BALANCE FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON TIMOR TRIP GIVEN BY MRS. MEYNER AND HOLSTINE. WE HAVE NO INDICATION YET WHERE CONGRESSMAN FRASER WILL COME OUT ON TIMOR QUESTION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE090861
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASWIFT/EZM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770139-1126
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770428/aaaaaxte.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 39138ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2719622
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL WOLFF: TIMOR TRIP
TAGS: OREP, (WOLFF, LESTER)
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/39138ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009